

### **Town Administrator Community Meeting April 13, 2010 Summary**

The following is a recap of the issues and concerns raised by the residents as well as responses provided by Town Administrator Gary Shimun at the community meeting which he hosted: This is not a verbatim taking of minutes. It is solely to document the main issues and the response of the town.

Q The question was raised as to what contributions the universities provide to the town versus the amount of resources that are expended to support their operations.

A All the schools are exempt from taxes as they are state schools, excluding NSU, which is a private university. However it is also exempt from paying taxes, as it is a not-for-profit university. All the schools are charged fees, such as the fire assessment, but only NSU pays it. The state schools are also charged, but do not pay, as the state legislature has control over both the schools and the town. The state legislature would have to approve the payment and they never do. The Town has no recourse as municipalities and counties are creatures of the state, meaning states created municipalities and as such have absolute control over them. Only states are specifically given powers in the United States Constitution. There is no mention of counties or municipalities. The former and the latter are given form in the state constitution.

Q There was a statement about septic tanks on the east side of town, and it was related to the work being done by CRA.

A It was explained that the new lines being installed will provide a better environmental solution for wastewater disposal in the long run.

Q There was talk about the proposed water plant and its location: both the UF and Forman properties were broached. There were questions about the need for both.

A It was explained that construction will take place on the UF site for the proposed water plant and that the Forman property was for a site in the future. It was further explained that procuring 15 to 20 acres on the east side of town 15 to 20 years from now would be very difficult and exorbitantly costly. Further, the Forman site could be a regional solution in the future.

Q It was mentioned that the town should look into selling utilities to other entities.

A It was explained that we already sell water to the Seminoles. It was further explained that this sort of arrangement requires permission and that Sunrise had this permission in West Davie. Permission in this case means the certified amount of water that an entity can extract from the ground. This permission is received from South Florida Water Management. Further, at this time, all locations within the town receive water from someone. For Davie to provide water to the western part of the town, the town would buy out Sunrise at a prohibitive cost.

- Q It was stated that we should contact BSO to use their inmates to clean our swales.
- A The town does use individuals serving community service hours to do clean up type activities.
- Q The status of the potential merger of our police and fire departments with BSO was brought up.
- A It was explained that it could not happen without it first going to the voters as it is in the charter.
- Q There was mention of water being provided by the town to Oak Hill.
- A It was explained that it would be cost prohibitive.
- Q It was asked when the town would better control pension costs, especially for police and fire.
- A It was explained that currently two contracts were being negotiated: FOP (police) and FOPA (general employees). The manager expressed that staff would bring a more equitable contract back to the Town Council for approval.
- Q It was asked what unfunded mandates were?
- A The administrator explained that unfunded mandates were laws and requirements created by the federal government or the state government which the town had to enforce or fulfill without any funding from those mandating agencies.
- Q It was asked what was the status relative to the 2003 Fire Bond.
- A Chief Montopoli explained that there would be a community meeting in the near future to address the station out west.
- Q It was asked if the town could place a longer description on the email notifications sent out relative to bids.
- A This was reviewed and found to be sufficiently descriptive.
- Q It was asked whether or not the town intended to annex Broadview Park, as there were concerns about it being a financial drain.
- A The administrator explained that we were currently studying this to determine if it is a good financial fit for the town.
- Q It was asked when the town would conduct itself like businesses have had to during this economic downturn: meaning cutting back employee benefits, such as salaries, insurance, etc., instead of raising taxes.
- A The administrator welcomed everyone to be part of the budget process. He also explained that the town has been cutting and that there would probably be more cuts this year, but that it had to be done carefully.

- Q It was asked about how prepared the town was to deal with housing issues if it were to be struck by a category 4 or 5 hurricane.
- A It was explained that the town coordinates with the county, state, and the federal government. Further, it was explained that recovery efforts from such catastrophes are truly something that is funded by FEMA. We would work with the agency and others.
- Q The question was raised as to what sort of long-term planning we had done in the town relative to economic development.
- A The administrator explained that that town has invested a great deal of time and care planning the RAC and the TOC and that the town's focus for economic development will be in these two areas.
- Q Amendment 4 was broached.
- A The administrator gave a brief explanation and invited everyone to attend the EDC's meeting that would have presentations given by advocates on both sides of the issue.
- Q A request was made for a 4-way stop at SW 145 St.
- A It was explained that first it would have to be determined whether it is a county or town road, and then the request would have to go through a process via engineering.
- Q It was asked if there is a charge for calling the police.
- A No
- Q Someone brought up the idea about bicycle signage for safety.
- A The idea of securing sponsorships was brought up as a possible solution.
- Q A resident complained about her neighbor setting trash on fire and keeping construction material on their property.
- A This issue has been ongoing and is being handled via code enforcement and the special magistrate.
- Q A resident complained about signs yellowing at the gas station (Pine Island & Orange Drive) and the area being tagged, as well as dead trees
- A Code Enforcement visited the location and found that there were no yellowing signs, tagged items, or dead trees.
- Q There were question about the status of the Downtown Davie project.
- A The administrator explained that the CRA is working with the group and that there is another entity that is interested in developing the site.
- Q A resident complained about dead trees along the Griffin Road corridor.
- A Public works has removed the dead trees.

- Q There was an inquiry about the bridge at Bright Road as to when it would be complete.
- A According to the developer's agreement, the bridge does not have to be completed until the developer achieves 75% completion of the project.
- Q There were questions about the status of the new town hall.
- A The administrator explained that there would be a meeting to discuss the options with the Town Council and the community.
- Q There were complaints about loud (bass music) emanating from golf carts being driven by children along SW 145 Street. This was also mentioned about Forest Ridge.
- A It was explained that this is a misdemeanor which has to be observed by the police for them to take any action.
- Q There was a complaint about the poor condition of the locker rooms at the Aquatic Center (Pine Island Park).
- A Public Works contracts out the cleaning of this facility. PW staff checks on the work done by the contractor. Currently, the exterior of the facility is being refurbished. Public Works is looking into refurbishing the interior also.
- Q There were concerns about the foreclosures and the maintenance of such homes.
- A The administrator explained that it is the responsibility of the owners, but that he understood that the owners could not always be reached and that banks were hesitant to take ownership. Further, he explained that there is a process via the magistrate.
- Q The purchase of Battens Farm was questioned.
- A The administrator explained the Open Space Bond and that the councilmember from that district had decided to acquire the piece of property via the bond.
- Q The litigation against Walmart was raised as wasteful.
- A The administrator explained that it was an issue which the Town Council had taken up in support of the community affected.
- Q Cutting special events was brought up as a method to save money
- A The administrator explained that parts of the events are paid for via sponsorships.
- Q The amount of parks and the expenses that go into them were questioned as being too much.
- A The administrator explained that it was the Town Council's policy to preserve green spaces in the Davie.

- Q A request for stop signs in Sunshine Village was made.
- A Those roadways are private property, and as such, the Town cannot place stop signs on them.
- Q A request for curb cleaning along SW 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue was made.
- A The Town's street sweeper cleans SW 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue monthly.
- Q A resident living off Orange Drive out west complained that the streetlights on Griffin Road and on Orange Drive interfere with the breeding of his horses and wants them removed.
- A The lights on Griffin Road are in Cooper City and are owned by the state. We have no control over those lights. The light on Orange Drive is owned and maintained by FPL. The Town cannot recommend having this light removed for pedestrian and vehicular safety. Beside the safety costs, it would also cost the town financially to have the light removed.